

CLAIMS

A complete listing of the pending claims, including all prior amendments and the amendments made herein, follows:

1. **(previously presented)** A method of electronic commerce, comprising establishing a network-based on-line system for sale of futures contract to acquire tickets for a playoff game should a designated team qualify for the playoff game, wherein a plurality of teams could qualify for said playoff game yet which team is to appear at the playoff game is unknown at the sale of said futures contract, which futures contract is exercisable upon occurrence of the designated team qualifying for the playoff game, and futures contracts are offered for sale for each of said tickets for each of said plurality of teams that could, at the time of the offer for sale, qualify appearance at the playoff game.
2. **(previously presented)** A system for allowing a user to purchase an option or futures contract for a ticket to a contingent game, comprising a processor operative with a program to
 - (a) Identify tickets for a playoff game for which a plurality of teams could qualify but have not yet been selected to qualify for said playoff game at the time of identifying said tickets, and identify said teams that could qualify for said playoff game;
 - (b) For each designated team, enter bids for a futures contract to purchase the tickets, which contract is exercisable upon occurrence of the designated team qualifying for the playoff game; and
 - (c) Execute the sale of said contracts based on the highest bids.

3. **(previously presented)** A system of claim 2, wherein the playoff game is a participant-game.

4. **(previously presented)** A system of claim 3, wherein the participant-game is a team-round-game.

5. **(previously presented)** A system for allowing a user to bid on an option to purchase a ticket to a playoff game for which a plurality of participants could qualify to participate but have not yet been selected to qualify for said playoff game, comprising:

a database having stored therein an option or futures record having a team field representative of one of said plurality of participants being a candidate for participation in the playoff game, an event field representative of the playoff game, and a value field representative of a value of a minimum winning bid to purchase an option or future for a ticket for the playoff game on occurrence of a specified participant qualifying to participate in the contingent game; and

a server, in connection with said database, and capable of processing a bid representative of a request to purchase the option or future, and being capable of processing said bid and said option or futures record to adjust the minimum winning bid value and to allocate an option or futures contract to the winning bid.

6. **(previously presented)** A system for allowing a remote user to purchase, over a distributed computer network, an option or futures contract for a ticket to a playoff sporting game for which a plurality of teams could qualify, which system comprises a host server operative with a program including

(i) an game database connected in communication with said host server, said database including ticket identifiers each representative of a ticket for a contingent participant-game,

(ii) an option or futures bid database in communication with said host server, said option or futures bid database including allocation fields representative of an option or futures bid for each of said plurality of teams for each of said tickets, and

(iii) an interface manager implemented on said server and in communications with said databases;

wherein said interface manager processes option or futures bids from remote users to determine whether to accept the option or futures bid and to update the allocation field.

7. **(previously presented)** A system of claim 6, wherein the participant-game identifiers include team-round-game identifiers.

Claims 8-13. **(cancelled)**

14. **(previously presented)** A system of claim 2, wherein the playoff game is a playoff game for a sport selected from the group consisting of baseball, football, basketball, soccer and hockey.

15. **(New)** A method of electronic commerce, comprising establishing a network-based on-line system for sale of futures contracts to acquire tickets for a playoff game, wherein each futures contract is exercisable upon occurrence of a designated one of a plurality of teams qualifying for the playoff game, wherein each of said plurality of teams could qualify for said playoff game yet which of said plurality of teams is to appear at the playoff game is unknown at the sale of said futures contract, and wherein futures contracts are offered for sale for each of said tickets for each of said plurality of teams that could, at the time of the offer for sale, qualify to appear at the playoff game.

16. **(New)** A system for allowing a user to bid on an option to purchase a ticket to a playoff game for which a plurality of participants could qualify to participate but have not yet been selected to qualify for said playoff game, comprising:

a database having stored therein an option record having a team field representative of one of said plurality of participants being a candidate for participation in the playoff game, an event field representative of the playoff game, and a value field representative of a value of a minimum winning bid to purchase an option for a ticket for the playoff game on occurrence of a specified participant qualifying to participate in the contingent game; and

a server, in connection with said database, processing a bid representative of a request to purchase the option, and processing said bid and said option record to adjust the minimum winning bid value and to allocate an option contract to the winning bid.